

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 14, 2008. Claims 29-35 and 62 are pending in the present application. Claims 19-20, 36-40, 61 and 63 have been withdrawn due to a prior restriction requirement. With this Response, claim 29 has been amended for clarification purposes. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments. Entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 29-31, 33-35 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0105641 to Lewis ("Lewis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,227 to Goldstein et al. ("Goldstein"). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse these rejections. Of the rejected claims, Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claim 1 has been amended for clarification purposes and to address the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of Claims 29-35 and 62. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to Claim 1, Lewis fails to teach or suggest, at least, the features of an electronic ticket management method employing an event organizer apparatus for planning an event, an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus for distributing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend the event, an information storage chip for storing the electronic ticket information, and an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information, the electronic ticket management method comprising the steps of: forming event information unique to the event and registering the event information in the electronic ticket platform center by the event organizer apparatus; receiving a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of the information storage chip, performing distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user, and registering an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus; and forming an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus, relating the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master, and performing ticket issuing processing for writing the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of

electronic tickets for attending the event into the information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information by the electronic ticket platform center.

In one nonlimiting example of the presently claimed invention, as shown in Fig. 1, the electronic ticket management system 100 includes an electronic ticket platform center 110 for managing the distribution of electronic tickets, event organizers 120 for planning and carrying out events, electronic ticket sellers 130, which serve as electronic ticket selling devices for selling electronic ticket information, customers 140 that purchase electronic tickets, store terminals 150 for writing electronic ticket information into information storage chips possessed by the customers 140, event venues 160 at which events are held, and a network 170, such as the Internet, for linking these elements. (See, Specification, [0113]). After planning an event, the event organizer 120 decides the electronic ticket sellers 130 for selling electronic tickets for the corresponding event, and also determines the allocation ratio of the electronic tickets to be distributed to the electronic ticket sellers 130, and then registers the information of the electronic ticket sellers 130 and the allocation ratio in the seller master 405. (See, Specification, [[0129]). The event organizer 120 in this embodiment is a novel feature. The event organizer 120 is defined as a client having functions for planning events, forming event information unique to each event, and registering the event information in the electronic ticket platform center 110. (See, Specification, [0142]). Accordingly, the event organizer 120 can include an event organizer apparatus, as recited in Claim 1. In contrast to Claim 1, Lewis fails to disclose or suggest such features.

Lewis discloses a system 10, as shown in FIG. 1, including a remote computer or a customer computer 12 which is capable of being connected to the Internet. (See, Lewis, [0020]). For example, the customer computer 12 may be connected to an Internet Service Provider (ISP) system 14 via a connection 16, such as a telephone line. (See, Id.). The ISP system 14 is connected to the vendor computer system 18 by a connection 20, such as a telephone line connection. (See, Id.). The customer computer 12 is allowed access to the vendor computer system 18 through the ISP system 14 by use of a commonly available web browser or similar software package. The vendor computer system 18 is capable of hosting a website which presents various pages to the customer computer 12. Although Lewis appears to disclose that the event information is stored on the vendor computer system 18, it is silent with regard to

employing an event organizer apparatus for planning an event and/or enabling one more different event organizers (e.g., as shown in reference number 120 in Fig. 1 of the present application) to register event information on the electronic ticketing platform, as recited in Claim 1. In fact, it does not appear that Lewis even mention aspects of event organization or receiving information from an event organizer. Therefore, Lewis does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed feature of employing an event organizer apparatus for planning an event, registering the event information in the electronic ticket platform center by the event organizer apparatus, or forming an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus.

Goldstein is merely relied on for the purported disclosure of smart card capable of storing a plurality of tickets to a single event, and thus does not cure the deficiencies of Lewis, as discussed above.

Accordingly, claims 29-31, 33-35 and 62 are clearly distinguishable over Lewis and Goldstein, even assuming that the references are properly combinable.


The Office Action also rejects Claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Lewis, in view of Goldstein and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,532 to Gebb ("Gebb"). Gebb is merely relied on for the alleged disclosure of a ticket server that compares the current date with a predetermined time period before an event in order to determine if it is acceptable to redistribute a ticket to a new customer. (See, Office Action, pg. 7). Therefore, Gebb fails to cure the deficiencies of Lewis and Goldstein for at least the reasons above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of Claim 32 in view of Lewis, Goldstein and Gebb.

In light of the above, the Applicants submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

BY



Thomas C. Basso
Reg. No. 46,541
Customer No. 29175

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